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Dialogue among civilizations

Afghanistan, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, China, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Togo and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/22 of 4 November 1998 entitled "United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations",

Reaffirming the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, which, *inter alia,* call for collective effort to strengthen friendly relations among nations, remove threats to peace and foster international cooperation in resolving international issues of economic, social, cultural and humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Bearing in mind the valuable contribution that dialogue among civilizations can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Recognizing the diverse civilizational achievements of mankind, crystallizing cultural pluralism and creative human diversity,

Aware that positive and mutually beneficial interaction among civilizations has continued throughout human history despite impediments arising from disputes and wars,

Underlining that tolerance and respect for diversity facilitate universal promotion and protection of human rights and constitute sound foundations for civil society, social harmony and peace,

Emphasizing the indispensable role of dialogue as a means to reach understanding, remove threats to peace and strengthen interaction and exchange among and within civilizations,

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Reaffirming that civilizational achievements constitute the collective heritage of mankind, providing a source of inspiration and progress for humanity at large,

Welcoming the collective endeavour of the international community to enhance understanding through constructive dialogue among civilizations at the threshold of the third millennium,

Encouraged by the positive reception of Governments, international organizations, civil society organizations and international public opinion to the designation of the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations, and welcoming the initiatives undertaken by governmental and non-governmental actors to promote dialogue,

Expressing its firm determination to facilitate and promote dialogue among civilizations,

1. *Takes note with interest* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Welcomes* the decision of the Secretary-General to appoint his personal representative for the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations;

3. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant international and non-governmental organizations, to continue and further intensify planning and organizing appropriate cultural, educational and social programmes to promote the concept of dialogue among civilizations, including through organizing conferences and seminars and disseminating information and scholarly material on the subject, and to inform the Secretary-General of their activities;

4. *Calls upon* Governments to encourage all members of society to take part in promoting dialogue among civilizations and to provide them with an opportunity to make contributions to the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations;

5. *Notes with interest* the activities undertaken and proposals made by Member States, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and international and regional organizations, including the Organization of the Islamic Conference and non-governmental organizations, for the preparation of the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a further substantive report on preparations for the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations".

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[1] A/54/546.